

EQUAL ACCESS TO THE RIGHT NUTRITION FOR MILITARY FAMILIES ACT (EARN ACT)

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 2021

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, today, my colleague, Mr. FORTENBERRY of Nebraska, and I will introduce the bipartisan Equal Access to the Right Nutrition Act for Military Families—better known as the EARN Act.

The food insecurity rate among active-duty military families is 14 percent higher than the national average of 10.5 percent.

This affects service members from all ranks, especially junior enlisted as well as service members of color.

The EARN Act is an innovative solution to this problem that will increase military family access to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program—commonly known as Foods Stamps or SNAP.

It removes variability in state administered SNAP programs by establishing a federally administered SNAP benefit for military families with streamlined national eligibility requirements for military households.

It encourages participation in SNAP by requiring the U.S. Department of Defense to notify qualifying military families of their eligibility and automatically enroll families in the program unless they decide to opt out.

Finally, it eases the transition back to civilian life by establishing a transitional, temporary SNAP benefit for those leaving service.

When a person makes the commitment and sacrifice to serve our country in the military, we must honor this by ensuring that their basic needs are met.

I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan bill.

IN RECOGNITION OF 9/11 ARTICLE BY JAMES PATTERSON

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 2021

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize this article by James Patterson that originally appeared in The Montgomery Advertiser, September 9, 2016:

[From the Montgomery Advertiser, September 9, 2016]

ALABAMIAN RECALLS SEPT. 11, 2001

(By Jim Patterson, Alabama Voices)

Sept. 11, 2001, began like many busy mornings for me. I was in my Washington office and ready to leave for an appointment with a colleague near Georgetown University. Later, I had a meeting on Capitol Hill and after that, I planned to take Amtrak to Penn Station in New York.

Moments before I left the office, a radio news presenter said a plane had hit the World Trade Center in New York. This news astonished me! I stopped to hear more. While I waited for news, I reasoned a small aircraft with an amateur pilot could have hit one of the Twin Towers.

As a longtime traveler to New York, colleagues had told me stories of pilots in small

planes that had hit tall apartment buildings. This happens in New York. I proceeded to leave for my appointment.

The radio presenter then said a commercial jet had flown into the World Trade Center. This boggled my mind as I knew jets did not fly so low as to hit the World Trade Center. It had to be a hoax, I assumed.

When the radio presenter said the image was on the network news, I had to see it for myself. I was stunned to see billowing black smoke from the North Tower. An incredible pilot error, I thought. I thought perhaps the pilot died in the cockpit and lost control of the airliner causing it to crash into the tower. Still, I had doubts as I stood speechless watching the horrible images.

Within a few minutes, I witnessed a second airliner crash in the South Tower. It was a day of unspeakable events and lost friends. Shortly after 9:30 that morning, the windows in my office, situated near the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, rattled. I looked out the window and saw black smoke billowing in the distance from Virginia. Nearly 200 people died at the Pentagon that morning.

President George W. Bush was in Florida that morning with Vice President Dick Cheney in the White House. Members of Congress were evacuated to safety. Cheney decided to stay in The White House and issued military orders to shoot down any plane out of its flight path. Washington DC was a war zone!

Federal employees were ordered home. Military and National Guard troops quickly appeared to safeguard property and citizens. In a short time, the highways leaving Washington DC became clogged with cars. Many vehicles ran out of gas. Stranded motorists walked away from their cars. Washington's Metrorail was closed in several directions. Washington's mayor ordered businesses closed and residents to stay indoors.

Being a brave Alabama sort, I decided to go for a walk down a deserted Pennsylvania Avenue at around 10:30 a.m. I saw no cars and no people. A military vehicle with troops passed me by. Relieved they did not arrest me, I awkwardly waved at them. Two troops awkwardly waved in response.

In an episode of the 1960s TV program The Twilight Zone called "Time Enough at Last" a middle-aged bank teller longs for a life where he can read without the distraction of work. When he accidentally gets locked overnight in a bank vault and exits the next morning to find his town destroyed by terrorists, he is alone in the world.

As I disobeyed U.S. government orders to stay inside my office, I casually walked down a deserted Pennsylvania Avenue. I felt I was alone in the world. Perhaps this was the last walk I would ever make if more terrorism by commercial airliner took me away.

I stopped at a neighborhood restaurant to see a sign on the door. "Closed. Go home," it read. I walked to a barbershop and saw men inside fearful to wave back at me.

I saw fear on the morning of Sept. 11, 2001. I saw confusion. I wondered when it would be over. Fifteen years on, the threat of terrorism is not over. It is, sadly, a fact of life for all Americans everywhere in the world.

James Patterson, a former U.S. diplomat, is a writer and speaker based in Washington, D.C., and a life member of the Auburn University Alumni Association.

Madam Speaker, please join me in recognizing this article by James Patterson.

RECOGNIZING P.J. MELVIN, RECIPIENT OF THE GREATER PITTSBURGH FRIENDLY SONS OF ST. PATRICK'S 2021 ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 2021

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor P.J. Melvin, who will receive the Greater Pittston Friendly Sons of St. Patrick's 2021 Achievement Award at their Halfway to St. Patrick's Day event on Friday, September 24, 2021.

P.J. was born in Pittston, Pennsylvania. A lifetime resident of the area, he has lived in the family homestead since he was born. In 1964, P.J. graduated from Pittston High School, earning the title of Outstanding Senior Boy. He continued his education at King's College, graduating with degrees in sociology and English education. While at King's, he played on the football team and could be found on stage acting in Shakespearean plays.

After graduating from King's, P.J. began his career as an educator at St. Cecilia's Junior High School in Exeter, Pennsylvania. He then joined the teaching staff at the Wyoming Area School District where he held several educational positions during his tenure.

P.J. is actively involved in many community organizations and he has dedicated his time to serve in leadership roles. He is a former president of the Greater Pittston Friendly Sons. He is also a member of the Knights of Columbus John F. Kennedy Council No. 372 where he previously held the position of Grand Knight.

P.J. is known for his love of Pittston, and his presence has been a mainstay in the community for generations. Always seeing the potential of his beloved hometown, he served his community and fellow citizens as a Pittston City councilman. He was instrumental in starting the Pittston Tomato Festival, an event that attracts thousands of visitors downtown annually, and he was part of the effort to bring the statue of President John F. Kennedy to Kennedy Boulevard in the city. In 2019, P.J. was unanimously chosen by the Parade Committee to serve as Grand Marshal for the Pittston St. Patrick's Day Parade.

I am honored to join with the Greater Pittston Friendly Sons of St. Patrick in recognizing P.J. as the recipient of the 2021 Achievement Award. I admire P.J.'s lifetime of dedication to the Greater Pittston area, and I wish him all the best.

RECOGNIZING THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF SHULTS AUTO GROUP IN JAMESTOWN, NEW YORK

HON. TOM REED

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 2021

Mr. REED. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize the fiftieth anniversary of Shults Auto Group in Jamestown, New York, and congratulate the Shults Family for reaching this milestone.